

Message Text

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SPC-03 CIEP-02 LAB-06 SIL-01 OMB-01 DODE-00 PM-07

H-03 L-03 NSC-10 PA-04 PRS-01 SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19

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EB/IFD/OIA:CNELLIS (INFO)

AFR/CWA:AHELLIS

TREAS:MR. SHAPIRO

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ACCRA

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

CONFIDENTIAL STATE 223407

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EFIN, EAID, PFOR, GH, IBRD

SUBJECT: GHANA DEBT MEETING

REF: (A) STATE 216334; (B) STATE 220517

1. IN MEETING WITH CHAUFOURNIER IN LONDON NOVEMBER 9, BOTH LE QUESNE AND BOOTHROYD INSISTED THEIR SCHEDULED PARTICIPATION IN KENYAN INDEPENDENCE ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS WILL PRECLUDE THEIR PRESENCE IN ACCRA AFTER DECEMBER 4. LE QUESNE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD DEPUTY ASSISTANT SECRETARY SMITH ALSO PLANNING BE IN NAIROBI FOR ANNIVERSARY AND WOULD BE UNABLE REMAIN ACCRA AFTER DECEMBER 4. LE QUESNE REPEATED CONFIDENTIAL

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SUGGESTION REPORTED REFTEL A THAT TALKS BE POSTPONED UNTIL

MID-JANUARY.

2. CHAUFOURNIER STATED HIS OPPOSITION TO POSTPONEMENT OF MEETING. FOLLOWING TALKS WITH BRITISH, HE CABLED REITTER INSTRUCTING HIM TO URGE GHANAIANS BE READY MEET NOVEMBER 26. REITTER ALSO INSTRUCTED INFORM GHANAIANS THAT OTHER COMMITMENTS OF SOME CREDITORS WILL PRECLUDE NEGOTIATIONS AFTER EARLY DECEMBER.

3. BOOTHROYD TOLDCHAUFOURNIER HMG TREASURY STILL INSISTS MEETING BE HELD OUTSIDE ACCRA. CHAUFOURNIER REPLIED THAT HE HAD FULFILLED CREDITORS' INSTRUCTIONS TO INFORM ACHEAMPONG SOME CREDITORS OBJECT TO ACCRA AS VENUE. CHAUFOURNIER REMINDED BOOTHROYD CREDITORS HAD AGREED VENUE WOULD NOT BE BREAKING POINT. BOOTHROYD REPLIED TREASURY NOT SATISFIED CHAUFOURNIER HAS FULFILLED HIS INSTRUCTIONS ON THIS POINT. CHAUFOURNIER RESPONDED HE BELIEVES HE HAS AND DOES NOT PLAN DO ANYTHING FURTHER. AFTER BOOTHROYD'S DEPARTURE, LE QUESNE EXPLAINED TO CHAUFOURNIER THAT ONE OF BOOTHROYD'S SUPERIORS HAS CHOSEN MAKE AN ISSUE OF VENUE, PUTTING HER UNDER GREAT PRESSURE.

4. UK EMBASSY HAS INFORMED DEPARTMENT OF CHAUFOURNIER-LE QUESNE-BOOTHROYD DISCUSSION IN LESS DETAIL THAN PRECEDING PARAGRAPHS, WHICH TAKEN FROM CHAUFOURNIER'S BRIEFING FOR HIS STAFF. BRITISH ADD THAT CHAUFOURNIER REQUESTED INFORM GHANAIANS THAT CREDITORS WANT A RESPONSE TO NOVEMBER 26 SUGGESTION BY NOVEMBER 16. UK EMBASSY SAYS LE QUESNE'S OPPOSITION TO OPENING MEETING LATER IS QUOTE ABSOLUTELY FIRM UNQUOTE AND THAT LE QUESNE INSISTS NEGOTIATIONS WILL HAVE TO BE POSTPONED UNTIL JANUARY, IF GHANAIANS UNWILLING MEET NOVEMBER 26.

5. FOR LONDON: IF OCCASION ARISES, PLEASE CORRECT RECORD REGARDING SMITH'S PLANS, WITHOUT REVEALING CHAUFOURNIER AS SOURCE OUR INFORMATION ON LE QUESNE'S MISTAKEN BELIEF SMITH PLANNING ATTEND KENYAN CELEBRATION. RUSH

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